

# THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE

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Address all communications to:

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE,

Washington, D. C.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., AUGUST 27, 1896.

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THE NATIONAL

TRIBUNE to those who are not subscribers

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are sure they will find it a better paper for

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up a paper of the highest possible class than

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its columns is written especially for it. It

is not "boiler plate" stuff or syndicate

matter. It is bright, live, able, progressive,

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has no outstanding alliances with any men

or faction. It aims only to represent the

loyal, working, progressive people of the

country, to tell the truth of history, and

champion the cause of the men whose valor

and blood made the country as great and

prosperous as it is.

The paper should be in every family, and

we ask all who read this not only to

subscribe for it themselves, but to endeavor

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ARTICLES FORTHCOMING.

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### ANOTHER COMPLAINING COMRADE.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: In your issue recently you say to your readers: "Judge with words as much as they please, how are they going to make it appear that a \$10-a-month pension paid in 50-cent dollars is going to buy as much as it does now when in 100-cent dollars." When you said the pension would be paid in "50-cent dollars," you surely did not mean it. I have too much respect for you to believe you meant it. You were simply "joking for votes." In other parts of your paper you have repeatedly spoken of 50-cent dollars as existing now, and you have been free to comment on the silver producer getting 100-cent dollars made out of 50 cents' worth of silver bullion, a most sensible idea for you to hold or harbor. Where is your 50-cent dollar for a pensioner, if it is a 100-cent dollar in the hands of the silver producer?

The silver dollar under free coinage will not be lessened in value, but the demand for silver bullion at the mints for coinage will increase it. The law of supply and demand will rule in this case, and the demand of the mints being unlimited for silver to coin at the rate of 16 to 1, all uncoined silver will rate per ounce as high as new silver money. Then, where is your "50-cent dollar"? The United States will take it for 100 cents. So will you, and you would not refuse five or ten of them at par from a delinquent advertiser. Now, would you? Mind, your readers are not so green as some of your editors would seem to indicate, and it is not creditable to you to mislead or try to do so.

You are doing valiant service for the landholder, the money lord, the opulent rich classes of the land under pretense of helping the pensioner; and while you affect to stand by the pensioner, you simply hold him up while the money-lending big game man goes through his impoverished pockets. But your paper is not alone in this infamous business.

You hold up a class of persons—the old veterans—on the subject of pensions, while your nation's friends do them up to the tune of 30 per cent. How much would the Kansas pensioner gain or lose under free coinage when the mortgage is considered? Have a little mercy on our delinquent comrades on West, and even here in the old Keystone. Not even with your help can England read up while the money-lending big game man goes through his impoverished pockets. But your paper is not alone in this infamous business.

Comrade Stevenson starts out to reason, and gets along fairly well for a time, but it is so much easier to call names, and make silly, senseless charges that he cannot resist the temptation, and flies off into the customary Populist rant.

First, as to the reasonable part of his letter: If Free Coinage will not make the dollar cheaper, why does he want it? He confesses that he wants and hopes for a cheaper dollar, for the benefit of the "debt-ridden comrades out West." If the dollar is made cheaper, then the pensions paid in it are effectively reduced. Any man can see that.

It may be, but it is hardly likely, that for a brief time after Free Coinage goes into effect the owners of bullion may be able to get in the neighborhood of \$1 for the amount of silver that is in a dollar. But the fall will be very rapid. We saw this illustrated in 1877. The silver men were then quite as confident as now that if the Government would only resume the coinage of the silver dollar the price would speedily run back to par. At that time the silver in a dollar was worth 93 cents—only 7 per cent. discount—and their claims looked reasonable. The Government went to work and coined over 400,000,000 of the silver dollars, enough, Heaven knows, to satisfy any reasonable man, but the price went down until in 1894 the silver in a dollar was worth only 49 cents. The "law of demand and supply" is precisely what wrecked the price of silver. When American enterprise, science, and skill concentrated themselves upon supplying the demand for silver, and turned out 1,500 times as much in a year as had been the average annual production of the country, they overdid themselves, as is often the case, and "founded" the market. No industry could stand, the production being increased 1,500-fold inside of 35 years without a wreck in prices. If there were 1,500 times as many babies born as there were in 1865 there would not be standing room in the country for the people.

To put the whole thing in a nutshell: If the dollar is not to be made cheaper and of less purchasing and debt-paying power, there is no point or reason for the Populist campaign. If it is made cheaper, and of less purchasing and debt-paying power, it will be a swindle on every wage-earner, money-saver, pensioner, and others whose income is fixed.

As for the last part of his letter, it would be insulting were it not the parrot-like stuff that every Populist rattles off when he is driven ashore for argument. He simply disgraces himself by uttering that which he must know is absolutely untrue and unjust.

M. J. McKintley's most surprising talent is his ability to compress into one brief, forcible statement what other men would spread over a long argument. For example, he said to the delegation of farmers from Knox County, O.:

"Whatever the farmer is suffering to-day is because his competitors are increased in numbers and because his best customers are out of work. [Applause, and cries of "You are right!"] I do not know that we can decrease the number of your competitors, but with the adoption of a true American protective policy we can set your best customers to work. [Tremendous cheering.]

THE HEADQUARTERS NATIONAL TRIBUNE. The Headquarters of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE at St. Paul will be at the Ryan House, with the Department of the Potomac. Representatives of the paper will be there to greet all readers and comrades who call. We shall be glad to see all of them.

IT CANNOT BE DENIED. Shout as loudly as they will, no man can deny that the Free Coinage of silver would hopelessly reduce pensions. No one can deny that this is a cherished object of a very large proportion—probably an immense majority—of the men who are advocating Free Silver.

While there are a great many men in the West, including comrades, who have been led into supporting Free Coinage under the delusion that it will advance prices and help them out of debt, and while these may honestly believe that this will be accomplished without any accompanying injustice to the creditors of the Nation, yet a little reflection will show them the unreason of this, and the hopelessness of expecting it.

And a little further consideration will show them that no matter how many friends of the veterans there may be among the Free Silverites, they are not one to 100 of the number of those who have always been our bitterest and most persistent enemies—in war times and since—and that these will entirely control the party and its action in the event of success. How much influence will the exceedingly small proportion of veterans and veterans' friends have in a party the great bulk of which are Southern ex-rebels and their sons, Northern Copperheads and their sons? Those in the Democratic party who were favorable to us were mostly in that faction which was overslaughed, defeated and virtually driven out of the Convention at Chicago.

The men who are controlling the Popocratic party—the Harrises, the Joneses, the Blackburns, the Altgelds, and the like—steadfastly intend to cut pensions down—as they do all "the expenses of the Government"—by paying them in debased dollars. This intent is so unmistakable that no one can fail to see it. No real leader of the party takes the trouble to deny it.

### "UNIT OF VALUE."

It is absurd to talk about the dollar being a unit of value. There can be no such a thing as a unit of value, because nothing can be found the cost of producing which will be constant and invariable. As all wealth is the result of labor, many writers have urged that a day's work of unskilled labor be regarded as the true unit of value. But this is utterly impracticable, because the price of a day's labor varies greatly in different countries, and is governed by the law of supply and demand, and is also affected by the cost of living. We have the yardstick as an absolute unit by which all our weights and measures are measured, but there can be no such a measure for values. A dollar is no more a measure for a bushel of wheat than a bushel of wheat is for a dollar. At one time it cost more labor to produce a bushel of wheat than it did a dollar in gold or silver; and so the bushel was worth more than the dollar. Now, the opening up of enormous areas of rich farming lands, the introduction of labor-saving machinery, and the immense development of railroads and steamships have decreased the cost of raising a bushel of wheat and of getting it to market. The equally immense development in mining machinery and methods, the discovery of lodes of unprecedented richness have correspondingly decreased the cost of producing the silver contained in a dollar. On the other hand, while the gold dollar is becoming cheaper every day, owing to the discovery of rich mines and the improvement in mining processes, its cheapening lags far behind that of other products of labor, and it still retains approximately the value it has had for a century. Contrasted with the most stable unit of value that we have—a day's unskilled labor—it has greatly cheapened, for it will not buy nearly as much labor as it would 50 or even 25 years ago.

NO STOP-OVERS. The railroads have shown a miserably unwise policy in prohibiting all stop-overs on tickets to the National Encampment. While this is unjust, it is very foolish for the roads, for it will enormously curtail the sale of tickets. One of the great inducements to comrades and their families to visit the National Encampment is the opportunity given to visit their old homes and relatives. Or they may want to visit friends and relatives who have removed to other localities. For example, thousands of comrades living in the East would like to stop over on their way to or from St. Paul, to visit relatives living in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, or Michigan. Those from the far West want to visit their old homes in the Interior. Under the iron-clad ticket adopted they cannot do this, except they return to St. Paul to start for home.

While this is a hardship for the comrades, we have, at least, the satisfaction of knowing that it will hurt the railroads in the diminution of their business. This will be so apparent that next year they will have more sense, and make fairly liberal provisions.

LIFE OF GEN. SHERIDAN. No. 12 of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE LIBRARY is now out. It is a Life of Gen. Phil H. Sheridan, by John McElroy. It is a handsome 32-page booklet, containing in compact, concise form all the salient facts in Gen. Sheridan's wonderful career. It is illustrated by pictures of Sheridan as a Brevet Second Lieutenant and as a General, a copy of Taylor's picture of Gen. Sheridan at Dinwiddie Courthouse, the war horse "Kienzi," Sheridan's tomb at Arlington, etc. Price five cents. Six copies for 25 cents.

ONE street railroad alone, in Washington, D. C., formerly owned 1,000 horses, which it had to replace every four years. It paid the farmers an average of \$150 a piece for these, or \$150,000 every four years. Besides, it paid \$10 a month for feed and bedding for these, making \$120,000 a year more spent among the farmers. Now it runs its cars by cable-power, and its money goes to coal-miners, iron-founders, and mechanics. The farmer has to look to them for his market in supplying these with food. Will the adoption of Free Coinage put horses back on the Pennsylvania avenue railway?

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### "THE FORCE OF LAW."

The Popocrats descend constantly upon "the force of law" to give value to a thing which has no value, or to increase the value of that which has little.

In reality the force of law is very circumscribed, and cannot control one thousandth of one per cent. of the operations of business. The Government only prescribes what money it will receive in payment of taxes, and what will satisfy the judgments of courts. This is absolutely as far as it can go. This class of transactions do not comprise one in 1,000 of those of daily business. Anybody can see this clearly who will think about it a minute.

It is true that the Government could make every obligation now due from any one payable only in silver coin. All pensions, salaries, wages, interest on bonds and notes, principal of debts, deposits in savings and other banks, benefits from insurance associations could and probably would be paid in the cheapest money authorized by law. That is human nature. Men always try to discharge their obligations as cheaply as possible.

But there would be an end as soon as present obligations are discharged. Men will say, "I will not work if I am to be paid in cheap dollars," and no law can compel them to. Storekeepers will say, "Yes, the law obliges me to receive cheap dollars in settlement of your account, but I shall not sell you any more goods at the same prices. It'll pay me better to keep them on the shelves," and no law can compel them to sell.

Men will say, "I'll not deposit good money in bank to be paid back in poor money," and no law can compel them to deposit. People will not insure their lives and property unless they are sure of what they are going to get. A man is not going to sell his wheat crop for silver dollars, just because the Government says they are dollars and will receive them for taxes. He is going to find out first what the men with whom he deals will take them for. That is very much more important. If they will not give him a dollar's worth of sugar, coffee, cloth, or what not, for each of his silver dollars, he does not want them, no matter what the laws say. He will rather keep his wheat in the granary until some one comes along who will pay him the kind of dollars that he wants. No law can compel him to sell his wheat for inferior dollars.

This is something that the world has tried a thousand times, and always with the same result. No law can force a man to take cheap or worthless money, and give for it full value in his goods or the products of his labor.

THE SILVER DOLLAR. EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: 1. What is the present worth of the silver dollar? Silverites claim it is 53 cents.

2. Does the stamp of the Government on the silver dollar fix its value, i. e., is a dollar (silver) worth its present value because of its Government stamp?—ARTHUR C. BROOKINS, Iowa, Mich.

1. To-day—Aug. 20—bullion silver is quoted in the market reports as worth 65½ cents an ounce. As there are 480 grains in an ounce, and but 371½ grains of silver in a dollar, this would make the actual bullion value of a dollar 50.8535 cents, or a fraction over 50½ cents. Any school-boy can work out this example in compound proportion. Try some of them with it.

2. The stamp of the Government fixes what the silver dollar will be accepted for. Outside of the United States the stamp of the Government simply certifies that the dollar contains 371½ grains of pure silver, and people accept it for what they are willing to give for that much bullion. Inside the United States the people accept it for \$1, just as they do a piece of paper on which the Government stamps "one dollar." The main difference between it and a paper dollar is that it contains nearly 51 cents of actual value, where the paper dollar is all "fiat."

ONE can never be sure as to what a Populist really means, for he uses the English language with great looseness and lack of precision. But as near as we can gather from the following editorial from the Blue Mound (Kan.) Search Light we have said something that the editor has no facts to meet, and he don't like THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE anyway:

The most contemptible, lying, rotten sheet that has ever covered the musty surface of our table is THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, published at Washington, D. C., and pretends to be the national organ of the G. A. R. The editorial page of this pretended newspaper is one broadside of glaring lies, in its prospectus it claims to be non-partisan, and then devotes one-half of the page on which this prospectus is published trying to resurrect the old bloody-shirt strife of 30 years ago. Its paragraphs and editorials refer to the Populists as anarchists, socialists, and communists, and denounces all the advocates of free silver as

repudiators, or men who are trying to destroy the credit of this nation. This dirty sheet, under the cloak of patriotism, is doing what it can to fasten a money system on the United States that will reduce the masses to a condition similar to the Serfs of Russia. But the editor is one of that class of monarchists, which, who since 1876, have been moving as fast as they thought they dare to centralize this federal government of states into what they call a strong government, which they intend as nothing less than an absolute monarchy. This damnable sheet should not be allowed to circulate west of the Mississippi.

THERE were nearly 12,000 words in Bryan's New York essay, but he only said "Democrat" once.

If you want a perfect knowledge of the situation in Cuba, send for No. 9, NATIONAL TRIBUNE LIBRARY.

TRIBUTES. A VIRGINIA FINANCIER. JEFF DAVISVILLE, Va., August 20th. MISTY EDITOR: We air for Free Silver hereabouts, every mother's son of us. Jeff Davisville is yonnamunus on that er pint. We want everything free—Free Silver, Free Trade, Free Truckee, Free Speech, and Free Dawes. We wuz opposed to Free Niggers, an' f'it ez hard ez we could for 4 years agin it. But niggers is alluz an exception to everything. Nuthin' you say applies to them, except cuss words. Hownsever, we air not bothered with Free Niggers in this locality. Whenever wun of us ketches a nigger in this neighborhood, we yank him up an' make him hoe corn and worm turkaker for us. If he durst ax fur pay we pass him round and round that he's "sassy," an' his death fur a nigger to git a reputation fur bein' sassy.

### QUESTIONS FOR THE DUNKARDS.

Three things came up for earnest discussion at the recent Annual Council of the Old Dunkards at Covington, O., and most of the time was given to their consideration. The first was: "Is it advisable to own and use a bicycle?" The texts which are considered applicable to this were Luke 17: 35; "And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God"; and Romans, 12: 2: "And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." I don't just exactly see how these condemn the bicycle, but the Dunkards did, and decided against the wheel.

The second was: "Is it contrary to the Gospel to hold communion with a member who is on his death-bed, after he has been anointed with oil?" This was decided in the negative. The third was: "Is it right to have the teeth filled with gold?" Decided that tin-foil should be used.

Truth: Elise—Why does your husband speak of you as his right hand?

Mrs. Ryan—Give it up, unless it is because he never lets his right hand know what his left hand doeth.

If Bryan's New York managers had only thought of it, they would have provided a squad of boiler-makers to rivet the attention of his audience.

As a matter of geography Bryan and Hill have been but 50 miles apart for the past week. But as to feeling, the poles seem near neighbors in comparison.

PERSONAL. Gen. Grosvenor and Col. Hay paid a visit to the House of Commons on Monday last, when they were accompanied by Mr. J. R. Roosevelt, the First Secretary at the Embassy, who is now acting as Charge d'Affaires during the absence of His Excellency, Mr. Hay. The two gentlemen seated in the Distinguished Strangers' Gallery—London, American.

Gen. Cyrus Bussey is billed to speak at Montpelier, Vt., Thursday, Aug. 27, and at Barre, Vt., the next day. This will close the campaign in Vermont. He then goes to Chicago, to fill engagements in the West.

Lieut. Gen. John M. Schofield and wife and Maj. Gen. Nelson A. Miles and wife are at New Port, L. I.

Mrs. Mary Strickland Pearson, wife of Col. Edward L. Pearson, U. S. A., of Reading, Pa., died Aug. 23 at Wernersville, Pa.

Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey, widow of Gen. R. D. Mussey, and an active worker for the veterans, delivered an address on the occasion of raising the first McKinley pole in Tompkins County, N. Y., last week. She is a fine speaker, and a lawyer in successful practice at Washington, D. C.

The President has appointed Levi T. Griffin, of Detroit, Mich., to be Pension Agent at Detroit, Mich., vice Harrison H. Wheeler, deceased. Mr. Griffin was a member of the 53d Congress, representing the First Michigan District.

MUSTERED OUT. Veterans of the Country's Grandest Army Who Have Answered the Last Call.

ROWE.—At Golden City, Colo., recently, Benjamin Rowe, 32d Pa. Cavalry, who was for many years an Engineer on the Western & Tremont Railroad, and resided at Lebanon, Pa. He was a member of Hermit Command, 24, Knights Templar, of Lebanon.

SHERIDAN.—At Falls, Ill., June 3, P. F. Sheldon, 7th Ill. He was buried with military honors.

SHERIDER.—At Canton, Ill., Aug. 13, George Sherider, Co. F, 67th Ill., aged 54. Comrade Sherider was a member of Co. H, 69th Mass., and the funeral services were conducted by that organization.

McINTYRE.—At Essex, Mass., June 7, Timothy McIntyre, Co. A, 35th Mass., aged 67. He was a charter member of O. H. F. Sargent Post, 152, and was buried by his comrades.

ANDREWS.—At Essex, Mass., Aug. 7, Timothy Andrews, Co. A, 35th Mass., aged 67. He was a charter member of O. H. F. Sargent Post, 152, and was its first Commander. He was Quartermaster at the time of his death.

LAWRENCE.—At West Chazy, N. Y., Aug. 15, D. W. Lawrence, Co. D, 95th N. Y., and Co. H, 39th Ill., aged 60.

ROLLER.—At Temple, Tex., Aug. 3, Christopher C. Roller, Co. B, 1st Ala. Cav. (Union), aged 74. The funeral services were attended by L. A. Sterling Post, 21, of which the deceased was a charter member.

MILLS.—At Cedar Rapids, Iowa, July 31, Mason P. Mills, 12th Ill. Cav., aged 53. Comrade Mills was born in East Windsor, Conn., and went to Iowa in his early boyhood. He enlisted Dec. 6, 1861, in Co. B, McClellan Cav., afterward incorporated in the 12th Ill. Cav., and served until Feb. 17, 1865, when he